The Story of the Plan of the Thirsty One

A very thirsty person was sitting on the bank of a river but a high wall prevented him from reaching the water. Being very thirsty, very impatient and restless to get to the water, he climbed the wall. He then removed one-by-one brick out of the wall and threw it into the water. The splashing sound the brick made as it hit the water pleased him very much and consoled him. Therefore, he continued breaking one-by-one the bricks from the wall and throwing them into the water. The water questioned him: "Why do you strike me with the bricks? What benefit is there in it for you?" The man replied:

"There are two benefits for me. The first benefit is that the splashing sound of the water to the ear of a thirsty one, is sweet music. Secondly, as the bricks are lessened the wall is lowered and the water is becoming nearer. The removal of the wall will become a means of reaching the water"

Lesson

It is reported that Nabi Moosa (Alaihis Salaam) once asked Allah Ta'ala: "What is the way of reaching unto You?" The reply came, "Discard your "Nafs"(self) and come to Me."

In the above story, there is a lesson for the seekers of Allah Ta'ala. They are thirsty for Allah Ta'ala while the wall of the Nafs (self) prevents them from meeting Him. Beyond this high wall of Nafs, lies the great ocean of nearness to Allah Ta'ala. Hence, the one who starts annihilating his 'self', by discarding every desire that is contrary to Allah Ta'ala's wishes -those desires which are like bricks of separation, will obtain two great benefits.

Firstly, he will feel the closeness of the ocean of Allah Ta'ala's love and perceive it as being within reach.

Secondly, as the preventative wall of his desires is lowered, the seeker of Allah Ta'ala will come closer to his objective, until perfect nearness is attained the day he annihilates his 'self' completely. Annihilation means to make all one's desires subject to the pleasure of Allah Ta'ala. The day this rank is reached through spiritual exercises and through a saintly spiritual guide, one will attain the good life. A glimpse of it can be felt from Khawaja Majzoob's words:

It is as if I am living in paradise day and night.
The garden of my heart is in full blossom.

Each moment, it is as if there is a flood of light upon my heart and at all times the thought of my beloved reigns. At no moment does the remembrance of the Beloved leave me. My 'self' is drunk with the melody of Him: "I am Near".

This Majzoob whom all consider to be in a wretched state
What do they know of the pleasurable state of this fortunate one?

Now another condition has taken hold over me day and night,
At all times I am in a state of blessed communion with Him.

Now in my heart there is continuously a remembrance of Him night and day,
Even in separation I am in communication with Him".